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URBAN/MUNICIPAL

Municipal Elections
Qualifications of an Elector
Form & Administration of Local Gov't.
Duties of the Mayor.



CITY OF HAMILTON

MUNICIPAL ELECTION NOTICE

ALL ELIGIBLE ELECTORS SHOULD BE AWARE OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR THE NOVEMBER 12TH MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

QUALIFICATIONS OF AN ELECTOR

A person is entitled to be an elector in the municipality if he/she is not disqualified under any Act or otherwise prohibited by law from voting in the election and if, at any time during the period September 3 to October 23, 1985

- (a) is a resident in the City of Hamilton;
- (b) is a non-resident, but is the owner or tenant of land in the City of Hamilton or the spouse of such owner or tenant;
- (c) is a Canadian citizen or other British subject; and
- (d) has attained the age of eighteen years or on or before polling day will attain the age of eighteen years.

ADVANCE POLLS - November 2 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

ELECTION DAY - November 12 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

ADVANCE POLLS

WARD 1 - Fire Station, Main Street West
and Norfolk
WARD 2 - City Hall, 71 Main Street West
WARD 3 - Fire Station, 246 Wentworth
Street North
WARD 4 - Fire Station, Kenilworth
at Roxborough

WARD 5 - Fire Station, 225 Quigley Rd.
WARD 6 St. John United Church, 195
East 38th Street at Queensdale
WARD 7 - Health Department
775 Upper Wentworth Street
WARD 8 - Fire Station, 965 Garth Street

ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED ELECTORS ARE ENCOURAGED TO VOTE AT THE ADVANCE POLLS WHERE ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE AND FACILITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL **CITY HALL - 527-2700**

FORM AND ADMINISTRATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The City of Hamilton has the mayor-council form of government.

The makeup of the City Government as we know it today was established in 1980, with the three-year term for the entire Council being introduced in the year 1982. Prior to this time, the City Government went through many changes. Through all the changes, there was no departure from the basic democratic principle of electing the Municipal Government. Without giving a complete history of the changes, some of the forms the Government took through the years is as follows:

In 1833, the City Government was made up of a Board of Police consisting of five members, with each of the four wards then in the City electing one member, with the fifth in turn being appointed by the four elected representatives. The five-man Board then proceeded to elect one of its members as President. This system of electing a Government was in force until the year 1846 when Hamilton was incorporated as a City. The Council then consisted of eleven members, two being appointed from each of the five wards, with the eleventh being appointed by the ten elected men. One of the eleven was then elected by the Council itself as Mayor. It wasn't until 1859 that the Mayor was first elected by the voters as it is the practice today.

In 1909, legislation was passed authorizing the introduction of the Board of Control made up of the Mayor and four Controllers. The Council in 1910 was comprised of a Mayor, four Controllers elected at large and sixteen Aldermen, two elected from each ward. As the City grew in both population and area, the ward boundaries changed. At the present time there are five wards below the escarpment and three above.

The Board of Control was abolished in 1980 and the present City Council is comprised of the Mayor, elected at large and sixteen Aldermen, two from each of the eight wards.

On January 1st, 1974, as a result of Legislation passed by the Provincial Government, the City became part of the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth. This is a 2-tier form of Regional Government comprised of the Municipalities of Hamilton, Dundas, Stoney Creek, Flamborough, Ancaster and Glanbrook. Municipal elections were held on October 1st, 1973 from which 27 Councillors (plus a Provincial-appointed Chairman for the first term) were elected for a three-year term of office.

The Regional Council is comprised of the following representation:-

Hamilton	17 members
Dundas	2 members
Stoney Creek	2 members
Ancaster	2 members
Flamborough	2 members
Glanbrook	2 members

The main officers of your Corporation and not necessarily in order of importance are the Chief Administrative Officer, City Clerk, City Treasurer, City Solicitor, Building Commissioner, Director of Culture and Recreation, Chief of the Fire Department, Director of Public Works, Director of Traffic and others.

All of these officers are appointed by the City Council on a permanent basis. We believe this is a much better system than is prevalent in most municipalities in the U.S.A. where many of these officers are elected. This practice makes it possible for a person to be elected who knows relatively little about the office to which he is elected, but is elected because of either his political affiliation or his popularity in the community. This system

FORM NO. 10 (REVISED 1-1-60)

THE CITY OF BOSTON AND THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The purpose of this form is to provide a means for the City of Boston to obtain information regarding the condition of the various streets and highways within the City. This information is used for the purpose of planning and financing the improvement of the City's streets and highways.

In 1957, the City of Boston was divided into five districts for the purpose of planning and financing the improvement of the City's streets and highways. These districts are: District 1, District 2, District 3, District 4, and District 5. Each district is further divided into smaller areas for the purpose of planning and financing the improvement of the City's streets and highways.

The City of Boston is divided into five districts for the purpose of planning and financing the improvement of the City's streets and highways. These districts are: District 1, District 2, District 3, District 4, and District 5. Each district is further divided into smaller areas for the purpose of planning and financing the improvement of the City's streets and highways.

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1. Name of Street	2. District
3. Condition	4. Remarks
5. Date	6. Street Number
7. Street Name	8. Street Number
9. Street Name	10. Street Number
11. Street Name	12. Street Number
13. Street Name	14. Street Number
15. Street Name	16. Street Number

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also lacks continuity which in certain offices could be very detrimental to the community.

A municipality has all the necessary power to look after the health and welfare of the people living in that municipality. It is given authority to pass by-laws which by-laws are then enforceable in Court; i.e. the Building By-law, Zoning By-law, Streets By-law,

By-law, Health By-law and similar by-laws which control and regulate the activities of the citizens of the municipality for their own good and for their own welfare. The Council also has authority to levy taxes and collect monies necessary for the financing of the Corporation. It can also pass by-laws to borrow money by way of bank loan or debenture issue for the Corporation repayable over a period of years. It can also pass by-laws to construct local improvements such as sidewalks and roadways and to charge a portion of the cost of the construction of these local improvements against the homeowner or against the property owner against whose property the improvements abut. Sometimes the Council is given rather extensive authority for, if it is in the interest of the people of Hamilton, it can expropriate any property for a municipal use no matter who is the owner or what he happens to be doing with the property at the time. If it is felt that it is in the best interests of all the people that this property be used for municipal purpose, the Council can pass an expropriation by-law and forcibly take the property. Of course, the City must pay a fair and proper price for the property which it so expropriates.

CIVIC DEPARTMENTS AND THEIR SERVICES

The functions performed by the Fire Department, Health Department, Traffic Department, Culture and Recreation Department and Public Works Department need no explanation.

There are a few Departments, however, whose functions are not quite so obvious to the average man on the street. In this category you can place the City Clerk's Office. One of the functions performed by this Department is to endeavour to record and interpret decisions made by the City Council and to ensure that the decisions are carried out. The City Clerk is wholly responsible for all aspects of the municipal elections. He issues marriage licences, licences for all types of businesses, such as gasoline service stations, plumbers and electricians. He is responsible for recording all births and deaths that occur in the City. He arranges all social functions and many other chores that are too numerous to mention.

The Purchasing Department, as the name indicates, is responsible for the purchasing of all supplies, materials, etc., used by the various civic departments in carrying out their work. The City Solicitor's Department - the main chore of this Department is to advise not only the City Council on legal matters, but also other Civic Departments.

Hamilton falls in the category of a rapidly growing community and we here are doing everything within our power to keep abreast of the growth. You only have to look around you and take note of some of the projects that are currently under construction or development, or have been constructed or developed over the past few years.

There are 75 elementary schools in Hamilton with an enrollment of 25,340, 14 secondary schools with student enrollment of 13,257, 7 vocational secondary schools with an enrollment of 2,027 and 4 schools for the trainable retarded with an enrollment of 385. There are 43 separate elementary schools with an enrollment of 15,500 and 7 Roman Catholic schools with a student enrollment of 6,000.

We have a Traffic Court presided over by a Provincial judge to hear all traffic violations. Provincial Judges' Court handles all cases under the Criminal Code, all cases

pertaining to the revised Statutes of Ontario and any cases arising out of any municipal by-law. County Judge Court hears all civil claims of a minor nature and appeals from Provincial Judges' Court on City by-laws, revised Statutes of Ontario.

In addition, periodically, the Supreme Court Judges visit the City to try major cases involving such crimes as murder, etc. In addition to these courts, we have the Juvenile and Family Court. This Court, as the name indicates, deals with all problems relating to juvenile and family matters.

TAXATION

As far as can be ascertained, the tax situation in the City of Hamilton is comparable to other municipalities of similar size. Taxes are arrived at by multiplying the assessed value of a particular property by the mill rate. A set procedure and system is used to arrive at the assessed value of each and every property in the City. Therefore, by using this method, the taxes are levied on a fair and equitable basis.

The amount of taxes paid could be maintained at the present level or could even be lowered. However, such a policy would soon stifle a healthy growing municipality such as we have here in the City of Hamilton. Taxes and growth of a municipality go hand-in-hand. As the population increases, so does the need for more services, such as sewers, sidewalks and roads. It is the responsibility of the elected officials together with the appointed officials of the City to maintain a balance between these two factors.

The residents in the municipality have access to the local government through their elected representatives. Also, many functions of the City are performed by citizen committees. They can also arrange to have their views considered by any committee, either in person or through a letter addressed to the particular committee. Their views are also never more audible than at the polls on Election Day.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Those people who are interested in local affairs are fully aware of the ways in which they can participate in local government. Unfortunately, unless the average citizen is personally affected by any works either undertaken or proposed by the City, they are quite content to sit back and leave the responsibilities to the elected representatives and the few that have a keen interest in the affairs of their municipality.

In the municipal election held in November, 1982, there were 223,577 qualified voters in the City of Hamilton. Of this figure, 114,757 voted, which represents a vote of 51.33 percent.

In the Province of Ontario, voters' lists for municipal elections are prepared by enumeration. Previously, in order to qualify, a person had to be a Canadian citizen or British subject, over 21 years of age and an owner or tenant of property assessed for more than \$400.00. This however, was changed at the 1962 municipal election when the question of extending the franchise to all residents, who are Canadian citizens or British subjects, over the age of 21 was approved. In 1971 legislation was passed giving everyone 18 years of age and over who are British subjects or Canadian citizens the right to vote.

DUTIES OF THE MAYOR

Of the several levels of government, the one that most directly and intimately affects the citizen is the municipal. From millionaire to boot-black, no matter who he may be or what his occupation, every citizen every day of his life is dependent, in one way or another, on the services provided by his local government. Not that the services rendered him by the Federal and Provincial Governments are any less vital, but in a particular way municipal government more intimately affects his daily living. Without its services, protection of his property and much of his personal comfort and liberty would be in jeopardy.

It is the cumulative taxes of those who reside in a community which produces the revenue to enable municipal governments to provide the services - police, fire health, street cleaning and many others - without which the well-being of each citizen would be gravely endangered, and it is the collective votes of the same people which decides who among them is to administer the affairs of their community. Municipal government is thus, but the expression of the will of local residents organized for purposes of community self-protection, growth and development.

As such, the municipality is in essence a minor state. To it is entrusted certain administrative policy and taxing powers. These facilities enable it to govern itself within the framework of the Province and of the nation as a whole. In the measure that municipal government is efficient, it reduces the burden which otherwise would evolve upon the Provincial and Federal Governments. It is this principle - although not the only one - which distinguishes a democracy from a dictatorship.

Thus, the Government of Canada is not one government. It is many governments - national, provincial and local - each with its own responsibilities, each with its own particular and defined functions. In the discharge of these responsibilities it is natural that all governments should be constantly on the alert seeking ways to improve their services and to protect and strengthen the welfare of the Country's citizenry.

In this latter respect, the municipalities of Canada have taken a lead which should meet with wholehearted citizen support. In order to make their influence more strongly felt and a cooperative means for the achieving of better municipal government and for the attaining of goals which can best come about through united effort, they have formed a national organization of civic corporations called the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Municipalities.

The Mayor of a City is the head of the Council and the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation.

At a municipal election each candidate for the mayoralty is nominated by ten electors. After the election the successful candidate has to subscribe to a "Declaration of Office".

After the inaugural meeting of Council the Mayor is singled out to receive directions as to his course of action as Mayor. The Municipal Act, Ontario, reads as follows:

"It shall be the duty of the head of Council,

to be vigilant and active in causing the laws for the Government of the municipality to be duly executed and obeyed;

to oversee the conduct of all subordinate officers in the Government of it, and, as far as practicable, cause all negligence, carelessness and violations of duty to be prosecuted and punished; and

to communicate to the Council from time to time such information and recommend to it such measures as may tend to the improvement of the finances, health, security, cleanliness, comfort and ornament of the municipality."

The Mayor is a member of all committees and boards of the City Council, He is also a member of the Hydro Commission.

The Mayor receives and extends a welcome to all notables visiting the City in an official capacity and also extends a civic welcome to the delegates attending conferences and conventions in the City. As the head of the City he receives many invitations to attend social, religious, charitable and military affairs.

He is one of the signing officers of the Corporation and signs all legal documents - debentures, deeds, cemetery deeds, proclamations, also paylists, accounts, cheques, etc.

to ensure the conduct of all important business in the Government of the City, as
far as possible, to secure all important business and interests of the City to be
protected and promoted.

As a member of the Council, the Mayor is the chief executive officer
of the City, and is responsible for the management of the City's
affairs, and for the execution of the Council's orders.

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